

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-6 are amended, and claim 1 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. For reasons as discussed below, it is believed that all the claims are now allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 2-6 based on minor informalities. Claims 2-6 have been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, in particular, claim 1 as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been canceled and thus, the rejection with respect to this claim is now moot. However, amended claim 5 incorporates the features of claim 1. Amended claim 5 obviates the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Miyauchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,462), JP 62-285406 and Harshbarger (U.S. Patent No. 4,208,241); and rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Miyauchi, JP 62-285406 and Harshbarger, and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,480). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

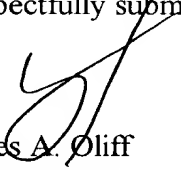
In particular, claim 5 recites allowable subject matter and has been amended to be in independent form. Claims 2-4 and 6 depend on claim 5, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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